

AmeriCorps Education Award Matching In Montana

Updated June 2015



Montana | **Campus Compact**

Background: For much of the twenty year history of AmeriCorps, Montana’s higher education service consortium, the Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) has operated both AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs supporting authentic campus-community partnerships, engaging college students in meaningful service and addressing poverty problems and other community needs.

In November 2014, the Montana Campus Compact’s board of directors adopted a resolution to honor the twentieth anniversary of AmeriCorps by offering local campus matches to AmeriCorps and VISTA alum attending an MTCC affiliate. As soon as summer 2015, most of the affiliate campuses of the Montana Campus Compact will begin to offer match when alumni use their AmeriCorps Education Awards to pay costs of attendance.

FAQ

What is Campus Compact?

Campus Compact is a national higher education consortium (compact.org) that advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility. In Montana in 2015, fifteen institutions are members.

How do I make use of this match?

Good question. First off, this benefit will cover costs of attendance only, so you will need to be enrolled in one of our affiliate institutions. We recommend going to MTCC’s website, mtcompact.org, once there click on “Awards and Scholarships”, get the pull down menu, select “Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards.” That page lists the institutions in Montana that currently match the award, the extent of the match and whom to contact to request a match.



Figure 1: Affiliate Campuses of the Montana Campus Compact

What is an AmeriCorps Education Award?

The AmeriCorps Education Award or Segal AmeriCorps Education Award officially, is a voucher, awarded to AmeriCorps and VISTA

members who successfully complete a term of service. Award amounts vary based upon service term length, and are pegged with the Pell Grant, to increase in value with inflation. It must be used within

seven years of issue, and may be used to pay back qualifying student loans and costs of attendance at most higher education institutions.

Is it guaranteed that I get this benefit?

No. Most institutions have placed an upper cap on the number of Education Awards they will match in a year, and you may not be eligible if you already have other scholarships or tuition waivers.

Does this happen automatically?

No, in most cases, you will need to first meet with Financial Aid at the college or university you are attending, explain that you are an AmeriCorps or VISTA alum, and request the match.

Do other states do this?

Many other institutions do this, if you google “AmeriCorps Education Award matching” you’ll get a comprehensive national list on the Corporation for National and Community Service’s website. As far as we know, Montana Campus Compact is the first state that has adopted the match as an entire statewide network of colleges and universities.

Whom do I ask other questions about my Education Award?

The National Service Trust is part of AmeriCorps and keeps your Education Award until you request that it be dispersed. The National Service Hotline can answer many questions about AmeriCorps education benefits. The National Service Hotline has a toll-free number through which customer service representatives answer general award questions or provide detailed information about specific awards or payments. Representatives also provide assistance for using the My AmeriCorps Online Payment System. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) during January and May through September. The hours of operation from February through April and October through December are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; the Hotline is closed on Friday during these months. The toll-free telephone number is **800-942-2677**. Questions may also be submitted at the National Service Hotline's [Ask a Question](#) page.



Figure 2: AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps Logos